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DE RUEHUL #0008 0020542
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 020542Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2810
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 7959
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5234
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9154
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5128
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SEOUL 000008

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/PD FOR SWALKER, EAP/P, EAP/K
STATE PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAX/ITP SCHEIKH
STATE PASS USTR FOR RCASSIDY
USDOC FOR 4430/IEP/OPB/EAP/JDONIUS
TREASURY FOR OASIA/MGREWE
CINCPAC FOR J-74

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KS](#) [US](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IN SEOUL

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

Mideast

"The Israel-Palestine Issue Will Be Resolved Only When the U.S. Is Fair"

Hanyang University Professor Lee Hee-soo opined in conservative Dong-a Ilbo (12/31): "Although the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for Israel to withdraw from its occupied territories, and the International Court of Justice issued a final ruling that Israel should remove the Separation Barrier (erected to prevent the entry of Palestinians into Israel), Israel is refusing to budge an inch, citing national security as a reason. Furthermore, as long as Hamas continues to resist recognizing the existence of Israel, this parallel may continue for another six decades. The biggest dilemma in the Middle East conflict lies in the fact that there is no impartial mediator. The U.S., the world's police, has no alternative but to side with Israel unconditionally, and it is currently difficult to find any influential mediator who can persuade Hamas. This Middle East issue is a task that requires the fair role of the U.S. and hard work and cooperation among the entire human race."

Stephens